

Holloman's tweens, teens enjoy Youth Center programs



by **Laura Pellegrino**
Sunburst staff writer

This summer, Holloman's Youth and Teen Center is giving children, pre-teens and teens a place to have fun and be safe.

"The Youth and Teen Center gives children a safe and secure environment," said Tina Luderman, school-age coordinator. "They can enjoy fun activities or just hang out."

The Youth and Teen Center offers an open recreation program for youth ages 9 through 18. The program runs from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday,

and 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

In the Youth and Teen Center, pre-teens and teens can choose from activities like basketball, volleyball, arts and crafts and board and video games.

"We want children to enjoy themselves and have fun," Luderman said.

Youth can also enjoy themselves on one of the many field trips offered this summer. Pre-teens, also known as tweens, took trips to Carlsbad Caverns, Grants Ice Caves and a girl's getaway to Albuquerque.

Teens traveled to SeaWorld, San Antonio and Kirtland Air Force Base Skateboard Park.

"Our goal is to find out the needs of the youth and make the programs better based on that information," Luderman said.

Another program offered is the Keystone Club.

The club is a member of the Boy's and Girl's Club, ages 13-18, who organize events and volunteer for programs, said Dan Salinas, teen coordinator.

Teens in high school

can also earn money toward a higher education at the Teen Center, Salinas said.

"Through the Youth Employment Service, teens volunteer their time to different organizations on base," he said.

"For each hour they work, they earn \$4 toward the college or technical school of their choice."

Salinas said the center is also working on getting photo, art, garden and cooking clubs started.

Teen Center membership is \$6 for six months. The cost is \$1

to bring a friend for the day.

The Summer in the Sun program, for school age children five to 12-years-old, is a day camp that runs Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The program offers clubs, field trips and recreational activities.

"Most of all, we're here to make the youth happy," Luderman said.

For more information about the Youth and Teen Center, call 572-3753. To sign up for the Summer in the Sun Program, call 572-1136.



Two Youth and Teen Center members put on a puppet show for the other children spending time at the center.



Sonia Espinosa racks up the balls for a game of pool. Shooting pool is one of many activities in which youth and teens may participate at the center.

(Left) Warren May eats a sweet snack of cookies during snack time at the Youth and Teen Center.



Claire Grossoehmig folds down paper for a craft project.



Kiana Nabozny and Claire Grossoehmig work on projects made out of paper. Arts and Crafts are part of the Youth and Teen Center programs provided to the tweens and teens.